The Library of Congress'

EARLY STATE RECORDS PROJECT

converted from the original microfilm held by the
Vincent C. Immel Law Library, Saint Louis University

through the generous support of a grant from the

Council on Library and Information Resources

This document contains handwritten text that may be partially illegible due to age, penmanship, or deterioration of the medium. LLMC has scanned the material in the same format and page order in which it is maintained in the source document taken from the collection "Records of the States of the United States of America, a microfilm compilation."

Washington. M. T. June 6th 1816.

Sir.

Your communication of the 26th Apl did not arrive until his Excellency had left the Territory for the State of North Carolina as soon as it came into my hands I gave immediate attention to its requisitions —

The fears which you express relative to a supposed interferance of the Spaniards with the Choctaw Indians for hostile purpo I am happy to find were the offspring of false rumour — The Governor had been aroused by similar reports, which induced him to take such steps as lead to a peaceful & satisfactory

With respect to the Militia, the other subject of your communication, I am unable to add any thing to the reports lately made you thereon —

Accept the high considerations of, Sir,
Yr. Obt. Hble Servt
(Sign'd) Cowles Mead

H. Dearborn Esqr.
Secy. of War

Washington. M. T. June 12th 180

Sir.

Your communication of 8th of May reached me b
last mail; should its requisitions be claimed by the G
we shall execute them as promptly as the situation of th
Militia will admit — having been but a few days in
Territory, I am unable to say any thing specially on
subject —

I am happy to have it in my power to inform the
General Government, that at this time we are in perfect
peace; fears have subsided, and an amicable intercourse is pre-
vailing with the Americans & Spaniards — but should our neig
bours make it necessary to try the military spirit of our Territo
I have every reason to believe that the inhabitants would m
the event with alacrity — nay, that they desire it.

The Honble Henry Dearborn
Secy of War

Accept the high consideration
of, Sir, Yr very Hble Servt

Cowles Mead

Washington. M. T. June 12th 1806.

Sir.

In compliance with your communication of the 29th
April I have selected the Gazette published by Mr. And
Marschalk of the City of Natchez to diffuse the laws of the
last Congress.

I have the honor to be with high
respect yr very Hble Servt.

The Honble James Madison.
Secretary of State

Cowles Mead

Washington, M. T. June 22d 1806.

Sir.

Tis with serious regret I have to change the stile of my communication, so soon, relative to our neighbors — the 19th inst. brough to hand a letter from Judge Toulmin which wears the aspect of considerable alarm, he says, "the Spaniards have given suc a talk to the Indians as puts the life of every man here in jeopard

To guard against the effect, I have requested Capt. Swain of the U. States army and Col.o Callier of the Washington regiment to be on the alert, to apprehend all suspicious persons, and men to hold out a menacing front in case the Indians or Spaniards shew any disposition to disturb the peace and quiet of that settlement.

My communicants inform me that the Indians are invited to a great Talk at Mobile by the Spaniards, and the Indians are generally disposed to attend — they have been much caressed — treated with rum, and taken thro the magazins, with assurances of a full supply of arms and ammunition, should they evince a friendly disposition.

The six Towns have never been friendly to the American Government, and seem to be ready at all times to engage in the feelings and wishes of Spain — their disappointment in the sale of their lands offered Mr. Dinsmoor has given them considerable displeasure, and unless some decisive step is taken, this displeasure may find its way to the scalps of many innocent victims.

I have been advised that the most troublesome parts of the Creek and Chactaw Indians, are entirely ignorant of the strength and population of the U. States — that they have formed and continue to enjoy the opinion that they are able to cope with the whole people of the U. States and that with the aid of the Spaniards they will be able shortly to drive the Americans from all their settlements south of Chatahouchee & re-invest Spain with the sovereignty thereof; to counteract these ridiculous errors, I have been advised to mention to the General and

Government the policy of ordering several companies to their principal settlements or to establish a fort nearer to on the Pascagola river.

A letter from the Capt. of the Washington Troop of horse me of their inability to procure swords or pistols for equipment to his Excellency's communication of the 1st of April I can only my own solicitude - the peculiar situation of that spot, calls every aid.

I shall expect to receive instructions from the General Government by earliest return of the mail - and should the present cloudy atmosphere continue to obscure the horizon of our southern sky, I shall expect full developement of the views of Government, that I may have secure basis to rest on.

The Hon.ble
Henry Dearborn
Sec.y of War

With high consideration I am Sir.
Yr Hble Servt.
(Signed) Cowles Mead

Washington M. T. June 22d. 1806.

Capt. Swain.

Sir.

Having just received intelligence from your qu ter, that the Spaniards are employing all their ingenuity to engage Chactaw Indians in hostile measures with us, and that they have invited them to a great talk for some mischievous purposes; I ta the liberty to suggest the exercise of the vigilance necessary to the tection of the schemes or agents of our enemies; and shall feel oblig to you for all such communications as may contribute to energetic co-operation of the civil and military powers, if ever th occasion should require this Co-operation - should any circumstan arise threatening the present tranquility of the inhabitants Washington County, you will please take such steps as the im diate exigence would best advise.

By a communication from the Executive of the 8th of May I find that General Wilkinson is ordered to New Orleans to take the Command of the Army — until his arrival I shall be pleased to have your thoughts occasionally on the State of affairs.

With assurance of respect I am
Sir, Yr Hble Servt
(Signed) Cowles Mead

Capt. Swain. Army of U.S.
Fort Chambers.

Washington, M. T. June 22nd 1806.

Sir,

Having received intelligence of the continued hostile aspect of the Spaniards — and their constant efforts to engage the Chactaw Indians in their interest against us; I have to enjoin you to be watchful of their movements, and acquaint me with every change of affairs which may threaten the lives or even the comfortable security of the inhabitants of Washington County — I am advised by the General Government to give every attention to the militia and especially to your part of the Territory, this will devolve particularly on your hands.

Frequent company musters probably would be attended with beneficial effects — it would beget discipline, and with attention a spirit of emulation — Your own Knowledge of your situation will be the best adviser on this occasion, and your known activity as an officer precludes the necessity of particular orders at this time.

I am Sir, Yr Hble Servt
(Signed) Cowles Mead

Colo. Collier, of
3d Regt.

Washington M. T. June 23rd 1806

Sir.

Having received information from very respectable authority that th Spaniards are intriguing to draw the Chactaw Indians into hostile measures, I have to request you to use all your influence, and loose r effort to ascertain the Specific object of the Spanish agents — [illegible]

your attention to this requisition you will not fail to
gers, expresses or other aid that you may deem requisite fo
ment of your purposes, or the immediate information of
should you make any discovery of agents in the nation or a
circumstance which may require the interposition of for
military aid, you will dispatch your runners to Capt.
as well as to this place.

Your long friendship to and vigilance in behalf of
States induces me to rely with great confidence on your exertions.

I would have you keep a watchful eye towards the
to which the Indians are invited by the Spaniards — much
depend upon your detection of the particular object of
for which purpose you will use every necessary auxiliary.

As Mr. Dinsmoor and Mr. Chambers are both from their
posts at this time, much will be required of you — therefore
no time in acquainting us with the real situation of the

Yr. Obt. Hble Servt.
(signed) Cowles Mead.

Mr. John Pytchlin,
Interpreter to the Chactaw
nation.

Washington, M. T. June 26th. 1806.

Sir.

In the organization of the Government of the United States
principles were specially defined and conceded by the people to th
Governors; but Sir among the various reservations [illegible] by the pe
ple, that of the exclusive government of the law was the most im
portant and essential; and they have retained to themselves all
powers which have not been expressly conceded by the Constitution
their Country — In obedience to this right I have to inform your
Excellency that I know of no law of the General or Territorial Govern
that would warrant my delivery of this man Keary into your h
for trial, but to them ~~how~~ far I am willing to satisfy you on th

on that head; I will immediately dispatch a statement of your claims to the President of the United States, who if he should differ with me, will issue such directions as will accomplish your purpose — Your Excellency will please to believe that my feelings as a man, revolt with horror from the villain who has perpetrated this diabolical, this brutal act; and that I feel as strongly the impulse of justice, as strongly the hatred of the crime, as is necessary to the condemnation of the man, in my private and individual capacity; and do assure you that nothing but the want of legal or constitutional power induces me to forego the requisitions of your note. It being a national question, necessarily belongs to the Executive of the United States.

As soon Sir, as I am informed of the will of the President of the United States on the subject of your demands, I shall with celerity dispatch the same for the information of your Excellency.

With the most respectful consideration
I have the honor to be yr. Excellency's
Very Hble Servt.
(Signed) Cowles Mead

His Excellency
Govr. Grand Pré

Sir. Washington, M. T. June 27th 1806.

The Spanish Commandant at Baton Rouge has claimed of the Executive of this Territory the delivery of a man by the name of Keary — I have informed him that questions of that nature exclusively belong to the General Government and at the same time promised a communication of his detail thereon, to the Executive thereof — the Circumstances stated by his witness, the bearer of his note, are as follow — Keary is an inhabitant of this Territory, residing near Pinckneyville — a negro of his absconded & was imprisoned at Baton Rouge, on application to Colo. Grand Pré he was delivered up. As soon as he received the fellow, he commenced the chastisement or rather beating of him in the most cruel manner — for

many miles he continued this savage abuse, as appears b
who met him on the road — the other was, that the fellow
ed within the Territory of his C. M. — Henry passed
and now lives in perfect safety from the laws of both Govern

A surrender of this man at this time, altho I am dispose
believe, he has been guilty of the most atrocious act, would
an unpleasant effect on the minds of this people — their na
hatred to Spaniards, would deny them every justice, and suffer a he
culprit to escape rather than have him punished by Spanish de

With great difference I wait the instruction of th
General Government.

With particular consideration I am

The Honble. James Madison. Secretary of State. } Yr. Hble. Servant. (signed) Cowles Mead.

Washington. July 10th 1806.

Drury W. Breazeale Esqr.

Sir.

The laws of this Territory which you have cite
for the condemnation of Henry D. Downs, I have fully and deliberately
examined, and find that they carry in them remedies or penalties for tho
breaches of duty which you have alledged against him —

For me to act in conformity with your wishes and petition would
treating the laws of this Territory with marked disrespect — these law
constitute the sense and the will of the people of this Territory and are
legitimately sanctioned by all the constituted authorities of the Gov
ernment.

In my denial of your petition I only refer you to the laws of your Co
— before a Jury of your neighbors where all the minutiae is known, a
fairly brought to view, must be the best tribunal, and the one where
Justice is most apt to preside —

I have made these remarks to shew you how regardful I h
ever been of the laws of this Territory even when my power is paramou
to them, and further, that where the law prescribes rules for the

officers of Government, that law must be first used against them, and when the insufficiency of the law is manifest, then will be the proper period for the interposition of Executive energy.

I am your very Hble Servt

(Signed). Cowles Mead

D. W. Breazeale Esqr
Atty at Law
Greenville
Jefferson County.

July 11th 1806.

A copy of the foregoing journal from page 91 was this day transmitted to the secretary of State together with a copy of the appointments marked in the Register of Appointments,

Cowles Mead,
Secretary of the
Mississippi Territory

Washington, M. T. July 14th 1806.

Sir,

Your communication of the 12th of June has excited in my bosom all the solicitude that a chief magistrate can feel for the dangerous situation of a large and respectable proportion of his fellow-Citizens — being disposed to tantalize myself that the Spaniards will never dare to make a direct attack on your line, and being aware of the efforts of the Genl Government to disengage you from your present unhappy situation, I have only to reiterate the purport of my last by Mr Brightwell, to be on the alert, to detect and confine every suspicious person, and by constant discipline and patroles, show a willingness and an ability to meet either enemy whenever they dare to make the [illegible] assault — but Sir, recollect, that you are not to indulge the irritated passions of an individual; that you h with Coolness & deliberation, and always bear in mind the few must suffer sometimes for the general good — that it is better for the County of Washington to bear a l longer oppressions and deprivations than to light up a wa with the Indians or either of the powers of Europe; — but a same time, you are directed to guard the property of y fellow Citizens — apprehend all persons, whether Spaniards Indians concerned in any species of robbery, & prosecute w all the rigor of the law.

You will observe, that while I am anxious to guard against every trespass or indiscretion on our parts, I am not willing to surrender to any nation the priviledge of infringing the rights of this people with impunity — and at the same time that I authorise you to restrain and correct the aggressions of your unfriendly neighbors, be cautious that you do not out strip, the policy of the Genl. Government, by precipitating hostili

As to the occlusion of the port of Mobille, I can only urge the the further use of your patience and like good citizens bear this partial evil, until your Country can provide relief — y situation is known, and will be relieved as soon as possible. — with respect to the claim which you make of the publick arms, I do hereby authorise you to receive them for the use of the Territory, whenever yourself, Judge Toulmin and Mr. Henry or a majority of you may think them necess your defence — and when the danger is removed to be return you being responsible for their return to the public stores the cause for which they were drawn is determined.

On the subject of those blank commissions which you of, I can only say that I find Jos. P. Kennedy and Charles entered on the Register of Appointments, the first as Capt.

the latter as Lieut. and Col. Johnson 2nd Lieut. — this appears as conclusive testimony of the approbation of his Excellency — if there is any mystery to you Sir, I have no doubt but the Govr. will promptly disperse it on his return to office—

Relative to the difference existing between your Majors, I must leave to his Excellency disputes & disagreements arising under or out of his acts.

Herewith you will receive commissions for Howell Dupree and J. F. McGrew, Justices of the peace for Washington County, agreeably to your recommendations—

Convinced as I am of the solicitude of the Genl. Government on our accounts, I have to enjoin you to be circumspect, to use your best endeavors to reconcile and not to provoke the hostilities of either of your neighbors — negociation is now employed for your emancipation, and improper conduct on your parts at this time might destroy the present prospects of a happy accommodation.

With respect, I am yr. v. y. Hble Servt.

Col. Jno. Callier.} (Signed) Cowles Mead

Washington, Augt. 5th. 1806

Sir,

Mr. Wills the bearer of this note has applied to me for permission to occupy the old Garrison of Natchez — you will be obliging me, by taking charge of the same, and dispose of or use it as you may deem most conducive to the interest of the U. States.

Your contiguity qualifies you for the superintendance, & the confidence of the Executive submits it entirely to your discretion — the cheerfulness with which you perform the duties

of the officer, and the known promptitude of your offici
aracter induces me to solicit this service at your h
Be pleased to accept the aſsurances of my highe
Respect.

Cowles Mead.

S. Brooks Esqr. Mayor
of the City of Natchez.

Washington, M. T. Augt. 7th 1806

Sir.

It being the intention of the General Government that this Territory should be supplied with all the laws of the U. States, and finding this desirable object foiled by some accident or neglect, I take the liberty to mention it to you, and point out those acts which have not arrived — The laws of the second seſsion of the eighth Congreſs came to hand since my entrance on the duties of the Executive department —

After a correct examination of the volumes in the offi and an interview with my predeceſsor, I am convinced th the absent volumes have never been transmitted, or if transmitt never arrived at the seat of this Government — The absentees are the 1st & 2d. seſsions of the 5th Congreſs — the 2d. seſsion of the sixth Congreſs, and the first seſsion of the eighth Congreſs — could you conveniently send on a few volumes for the principal offices you would be rendering the Territory an eſsential service & thereby give a value to those which we have already received.

Permit me Sir to claim this service at your hands, & accept the aſsurances of my highest estimation.

(Signed) Cowles Mead

The honble. James Madison.
Secy. of State.

General Order

Head Quarters. Town of Washington, Augt. 18th 1806
By Order
of the Commander in Chief

Battalion musters of the Militia of the Mississippi Territory, are directed to be held in the following order at the usual places of rendezvous:

The first Battalion of the first Regiment on monday the 25th. instant.
The second Battalion on the Wednesday following.
The first Battalion of the second Regiment on saturday 30th. inst.
The second Battalion on the monday following.
The first Battalion of the 4th. Regiment on thursday the 4th. of September.
The second Battalion on the saturday following.
The first Battalion of the 5th Regiment on monday 15th. Sept.
The second Battalion on the Wednesday following.
The first Battalion of the third Regiment on the 3d. monday in Sept.
The second Battalion on the wednesday following.

W. B. Shields,
Aid de Camp.

Sir. Washington, Augt. 25th 1806

I have this morning received your resignation as Colonel of the 4th. Regiment of the Militia of the Mississippi Territory - this you will receive as my acceptance - at the same time be assured that it is with reluctance I receive the resignation of meritorious and approved officers - The reason which you give for your departure from the service, viz, your intention to leave the Country is the one which induces me thus early to announce
my

our acceptance, as the present crisis requires the atten
of all the Officers of the Territory — Your second reason
to the Aid de Camp; I am disposed to believe no one
Aid has any authority over you, all communications ma
by him to you are directly from the Commander in Ch
and he only acts the bearer of Orders from the highest aut

accept my particular respects.

(Signed)

Col. William Neely }

Cowles Mead

Washington, Augt. 28th. 1806.

Sir

Yours of the 13th. inst. I have this moment received, its contents, so far as relates to Col. Caller, excites my regret, as his conduct has aroused a vigilance in our enemy which may obstruct our future views in that quarter.

I now inform you that appearances are ominous of w late communications from Nachatochy bespeak decisiv hostility — An express hurried Govr. Claiborne from us o 17th. inst — his course was directed towards the scene of act I wait anxiously his special communications.

The present aspect will justify every covert preparati which your skill or judgment may deem essential on th approach of war —

Accept Sir, my respectful considerati

(Signed)

Cowles Mead

Captn. Thomas Swaine
2d. U. States Regiment
Fort Chambers. }

Washington M. T. Augt 28th 1806.

Sir

It affords me great satisfaction at this time to receive your account of the amicable disposition of the Indians – the conduct of the Spaniards on the Southern border of Louisiana induces me to fear a rupture with them ere long – the obligations of the U. States to you are great already for the care and integrity with which you have watched over her interests, the present moment claims a continuation of your activity & vigilance for this purpose I again repeat my direction that you use such means and such agencies with the Indians as your approved judgment may advise, to keep them out of Spanish intrigues.

The Executive begs you to accept his utmost confidence and respect.

(Signed) Cowles Mead.

Mr John Pytchlinn }
Interpreter to the Chactaw nation }

Sir. Washington. M. T. Sept 6th 1806.

This informs you of the faithful completion of Mr Marschalk's contract relative to the publication of the laws of the last Session of the Congress of the U. States – altho he has transmitted all the papers containing them to your office, he fears that some one or more may have miscarried, which accident might induce a suspicion of his noncompliance. I preserved a file of the whole laws & by comparison find them all correct

yr obt Hble Servt

The Honble }
James Madison } (Signed) Cowles Mead.
Secy of State }

Washington, M. T. Septr 7th 1806.

Sir,

The moment I was informed by Govr. Claiborne of
hostile movements of the Spaniards on the southern border
Louisiana, I issued General Orders for Battalion musters th
=out the Territory, and last night returned from a review of
militia of Claiborne County, after having reviewed the Ba
of Jefferson & Adams Counties — the alacrity with which the
inhabitants flew to their ranks, joined to the general ardo
which pervades the whole Territory induces me to believe
that every reliance may be placed in this people for persona
aid if requisite to their honor as a free & spirited nation.
Having addressed them on the hostile appearances of the sout
they gave me every necessary evidence of their patriotism an
readiness to attend the requisitions of their Executive — volunte
corps are now forming in every County of the Territory, which
measure I trust, will save the necessity of a Draft in case
of actual war.

The want of arms is a great drawback on our military
arrangements — we can raise four or five good troops of horse, but
there are not swords & pistols in the Territory to equip half that
number — but for them we look with confidence to Baton
Rouge, where they can be had by one bold assault —

The Spaniards continue their seductive intrigues with th
Chactaws of the six Towns, & I fear will induce them or the w
of them to be troublesome on our frontiers — They have lately
the Slim King and four Captains to Mobile, where they hav
confirmed their insidious admonitions with presents, with
these Chiefs have returned to the nation — Pytchlinn the
Interpreter has ever been and still is constant in his observat
of their conduct, his son is now in the six Towns for the purp
of prying into the effect of their late visit to Mobile — this m
deserves well of the U. States, he is worthy of your particular

In consequence of communications from Gov. Claiborne of the 30th August & dispatches I shall immediately issue a General orders for the instant mustering of the Companies, and that they hold themselves in readiness to march at a moments warning — the spirit is excited and no attention shall be wanting on my part to keep it alive so long as necessary — the next week I shall review the Battalions of Wilkinson County — visit Fort Adams, ascertain the quantity of arms and ammunition deposited there and make all such preparatory arrangements as may be advisable under existing circumstances.

I trust, I shall not be esteemed obtrusive when I declare to you that the people of this Territory are impressed with a conviction in their own minds that Genl. Wilkinson is a Spanish officer — The old inhabitants all know some fact which leads to this opinion & seem astonished when ignorance of his extreme intimacy with several Spanish Governors is acknowledged — To calumniate, to slander, to traduce, is the business of meanness, but honestly and overtly to avow our opinions of public characters whether favorable or unfavorable is a duty — then honestly to act on this occasion, I do not hesitate to express my fears of the result of a warfare waged by the U. States against Spain, & Genl. Wilkinson the Commandant — Think not Sir, that I am the humble follower of Mr. John Randolph — No, I believe the one as much a Julius Caesar as the other a Cataline.

It is the general wish and inclination of the people of this Territory to attack the Floridas — should one drop of blood be spilt by the Spaniards on the southern borders of Louisiana it shall be immediately expiated at Baton Rouge, unless I receive counter order from the Executive of the U. States — with an eye to our predatory neighbors of the North & East & our internal security, I am disposed to act decisively & promptly, that is, bring all the force of the Territory into immediate action and so circumscribe our enemy in Mobile & Pensacola as to cut off all communication with the Indians; this I think may be done with facility.

With great respect I am Sir, yr Obt. Servt.
(Signed) Cowles Mead

The Hon.
Henry Dearborn
Secy of War

138

P.S Sept 8th — Genl Wilkinson has arrived - I had a conferen
him yesterday — to day I have another. and whatever p
ion I may have formed of his political integrity, I wi
Government to believe that the strictest attention shall b
as Commander in Chief as long as he possesses the Confiden
Government — you will be made acquainted with th
of our deliberations.

yrs &c &c. C. C.

Washington, Septr 9th 1806.

Sir:

In compliance with your requisition of the 8th instant I
do myself the pleasure to inform you that the only informatio
in my possession relative to the disposition and force of the Spa
Troops as well in the Floridas as in the province of Texas is cont
=ed in the documents and papers which you have already ha
under inspection — so far as relates to their conduct to our Citiz
they have been peaceable, but not friendly, as it is believed by
this Executive that the Spanish Officers at Mobile have very
lately been tampering with the Indians of the six Towns an
have labourd with the influence of talks & presents to set
them upon our unguarded and unsuspecting frontier — the
Slim King and four Captains have lately been with them, &
I am advised that these Indians were expressly urged to
unsheath the scalping Knife & commence hostilities instan
— but failing in this sanguinary purpose, they then advised the
predatory incursions and thereby destroy the present peace and
harmony which exists between our Red neighbours & ourselves.
in this likewise I am happy to inform you they have failed.
From a nation so degenerate, so corrupt I expect nothing but
treachery — they will no doubt do us all the harm in that quar
that their influence can command.

To your query, "whether offensive measures may be necessary
on the part of the United States under existing circumstances to the
protection of our frontiers & the vindication of our National
rights and Honor," I reply that I would advise a full, co

prompt execution of the orders of the Executive of the Unite
nd further that should the Spaniards again approach witho
imits claimed by the United States, I would have you assum
the attitude of war and chase them across the Sabine and there
be conveniently kept at the hazard of a general conflict.

We feel confidence in assuring your Excellency that
requisition of men can and will be promptly ~~be~~ prepared
they shall be organized and put in readiness as soon as possib

The whole number of effective men to be spared from this Territory to ~~go~~ against the Floridas would equal, possibly excee five hundred — our internal security will not authorise us to part with more than two hundred & fifty to go beyond the Mississippi.

We shall have all due regard to the disposition of the General Government for the preservation of peace & trust no serious indiscretion will again arise among our fellow Citizens

With assurance of the most prompt and cordial co-operation, I have the honor to be your Excellency's
Mo. Obt. & Very H. ble Servt.
(Signed) Cowles Mead

His Excellency
Genl. Jas. Wilkinson
Natchez.

Washington M. T. Septr. 10th 1806

Sir

In compliance with my promise of the 7th inst. I do myself the pleasure to inclose copies of the correspondence between Genl. Wilkinson and myself. You will there observe that so far as I was authorized to interfere or act, I have unequivocally avowed a disposition for war — the late approach of the Spanish Troops within seven miles of Natchitoches was an insolence which even at this period I would be pleased to see chastized —

The temper of this Territory is ripe for conflict, we think an
any fresh Post in the Province of West Florida without
General Government, then a supply of Arms, ammunition, and
Kindles a flame which has even run beyond our own binding
the subjects of his Catholic Majesty, &c, shall continue to fan its in
results is hard to our differences — Volunteer companies will readily
[illegible] of drafts — Genl Wilkinson will have at his service 250 men at
notice, and those of the most spirited and enterprizing description — We are
that the Spaniards are forming new posts in Florida on the lake Ponchartrain
establishment is another spy upon our intercourse with New Orleans —

Sir, can't the Floridas be taken and then paid for, can't we be permitted
make use of the insolence of the Spaniards on the side of Louisiana, as a
cause of attack on them in our neighbourhood; we are ready to risk our li
our political security on our success; nothing but the solemn injunction of
General Government, joined to an ardent solicitude to merit its confidence ha
withheld my arm at this time — the insults of Louisiana I leave to deal
in blows upon the Floridas — their treacherous and sanguinary policy with
Indians would in my humble estimation justify any thing offensive on
part — as long as they remain in their neighbourhood our Citizens are un
and we must keep the watch — But Sir with all this solicitude for w
I do assure you that peace shall be, as it has been, constantly the object
my administration — so far as was necessary to guard the Citizens against agg
and wait in patience your Wishes —

This morning I set out to view the Wilkinson Militia examine the
state of Fort Adams as to Arms &c &c. but shall return with all possi
expedition to the seat of Government —

Hopeful that my ardour is not offensive to the Views of the General
Government —

I am Sir yr Hble Servt

The Honble
Henry Dearborne
Secy of War

(Signed) Cowles Mead

General Orders

Head Quarters, Town of
Washington, Sept 8th 1806

The Militia of the Mississippi Territory will muster by Regiments in the following Order.

The first Regiment on the first Monday in October next at the Town of Washington.

The second regiment on the Wednesday following at Greenville

The Fourth Regiment on the friday following at Gibson Port.

The Fifth Regiment on the second monday of October at Percy's plantation.

The Third Regiment on the fourth Saturday in October at the usual place of rendezvous.

The several Captains attached to each Regiment are ordered to muster their Companies at least once before the Regimental muster, and to hold themselves in readiness to march at a moments warning.

By Order of the Commander in
Chief
W. B. Shields. Aid de Camp.

To the several Commanders
of Regiments.

The Captains of Cavalry received orders correspondent to the above, of the same Date which are filed —

Head Quarters. Town of
Washington Sept 10th 1806

Sir.

You will immediately direct the organization of a Company of mounted Infantry to be composed of sixty four

men

142

men rank and files from your Regiment, who are themselves in readiness to march on a days warn same may be procured by voluntary enlistm ticable, and in that case you will select offic fit for actual services, otherwise they must be agreeably to law.

By order of the Comm
in Chief.

W. B. Shields
Aid de Cam

Major White
Commandant of the 4th
Regiment of Militia of the
Mississippi Territory

Orders of similar import were issued to the respe tive Commandants of Regiments throughout the Territory

---

By Cowles Mead Secretary
Executing the powers and performing the duties
Of Governor of the Mississippi Territory.

A Proclamation.

Whereas satisfactory information has been receiv that a murder has been committed in the County of Wilkins on the body of William Peal, a Citizen of the U. States — And Whereas this atrocious act was perpetrated in such a mann as not to attach suspicion to any particular person or per — Now therefore to the end, that the murderer or murderers may be brought to Justice, and legal punishment inflicted for the sa murder I do hereby Offer two hundred Dollars reward to a person or persons who will apprehend and lodge the said murd or murderers in some secure Jail in this Territory — And I do enjoin and require all officers civil and military, and all persons within the Jurisdiction of this Territory with vigil and promptitude to exert their respective ~~[illegible]~~ and be and be aiding and assisting in searching for, detecting and securing the said murderer or murderers.

(Seal)

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory, at the Town of Washington this 20th day of September, one thousand eight hundred and six, and of the Independence of the United States the thirty-first.

(Signed) Cowles Mead

Washington, M. T. Sept. 23d 1806.

Sir.

In compliance with my assurance of the 26th of June I have fairly exposed to the view of the President of the United States, your reasons for claiming the body of a Mr. Keary, who is said to have murdered a negro within the jurisdiction of the Government of his Catholic Majesty — I have now the response of the Secretary of State, who desires me to say to your Excellency that the two Governments not having been able to arrange a compact for the mutual surrender of offenders who may escape from their respective Territories, it has not been deemed expedient in the present instance to comply with your application.

With high considerations of respect
I have the honor to be yr Excy
Vy Oblt Servt

(Signed) Cowles Mead

His Excellency
Governor Grandpré

General Orders

Head Quarte
Town of Wash
Sept. 25th 1806.

Capt. Farrar's Troop of Dragoons, Captain Newman's Co of Natchez Infantry, Capt. Poindexter's company of Mi Blues of Adams County, Capt. Davidson's Dragoons of J County are Ordered to rendezvous at Head Quarters the second of October equipt for service, and to receive f Orders — The Commanding officers of the first, second an fourth Regiments will assemble the quota of troops direct by the order of the 10th instant and cause them to rendezvous a Head Quarters on Saturday the 4th of October mounted an equipt for service.

By Order
W. B. Shields
Aid de-Camp.

An order of similar import was given to Col. Ellis to rendezv at Fort Adams—

Washington, M.T. Sept. 26th 1806.

Sir,

In conformity to my engagements with Genl. Wilkinson I have ordered the Militia required by him, to rendezvous at th place on the 2nd and 4th of October — at that time they will mov to Fort Adams for arms, after the reception of which, together w such camp equipage as may be necessary, they will be ordered join him with all expedition at Nachitoches and there recei his orders.

This militia will want supplies of provisions &c. until reach Fort Adams for which I shall necessarily draw on and be expected by the Commanding Officer Major Claiborne that an advance of money for ferriage and other incidental expences will be afforded by me, if so, this will make the subject of an additional application.

The inhabitants of this Territory are all alive with the expectation of war with Spain; never was more ardor or solicitude manifest than at this time throughout the territory — and while I encourage this generous flame and fan it with my own personal fervour I trust the General Government will be lenient in case we hurried by the warmth of our zeal beyond the rigid data of her policy.

Sir, I have thought, (my Country will pardon if in the wrong) that an act of hostility committed by the Spaniards on the western borders of Louisiana is as much an act of hostility to us as if committed within the Mississippi Territory, and that should they resolve to keep a ground which leads to war in one part of the United States, it is an attack upon the whole, and therefore right for any other part of the Union to repay the act or seek redress — under the influence of this mode of reasoning or feeling, should I be so unfortunate as to commit the interest of the United States I shall seriously lament it, but at the same time be felicitated with the assurances of a conscientious discharge of my duty — but should I succeed in obtaining the approbation of the Executive & promote the views of the Administration I shall esteem it the happiest & most important occurrence of my life.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Yr v. O. Hble Servt

The honorable
Henry Dearborn Esqr.
Secy of War.
(Signed) Cowles Mead

From the Secretary of the Territory to the Secretary

Washington October 7th 1806

Sir

The horizon in the west continues to cloud and th occasional rumblings fore bode an approaching storm aware of this Turbulence in the surrounding atmosphere I have been preparing a counteracting spirit to meet th flame should the reconciliatory agency employd by higher powers fail - This spirit runs thro our whole Territory and as soon as we dare condense it and bring it into action we are willing to hazzard the consequences.

Genl Wilkinson's requisition has been nearly completed and despatched on yesterday - they are all mounted but about one company - I have thought prope to draw on you for fifteen hundred Dollars the sum deemed absolutely necessary for present and contigent expe our militia are in want of every thing but they ha marched with a very small part of those equipments necessary to the ordinary comforts of a camp - Thom H. Williams my predecessor has been patriotic enough to undertake the fatigues and responsibility of the Quarter Master's station he is a man of Mathema precision and correctness and is well known at the F City - as soon as the returns of the several companies are prepared which will be in a day or two they will be transmitted to your office

The moment I despatched the above detachm I commenced a system of preparation for other op contemplated nearer home for which campaign we think we shall bring into the field from five to eight hundred effective men — But Sir our zeal has been much depressed our ardour much abated for the want of military apparatus on that score we want every thing muskets rifles swords pistols and ammunition and what renders our situation particularly unpleasant is that they are not in the Territory they cannot be purchased by the Militia — I have sent about eighty of the rifles deposited at Fort Dearborn into Genl. Wilkinson's service we have about that same number fit for service and about forty now in the hands of the mechanick for repair — I would advise that those arms be distributed among the Militia on some terms or sent where they can be kept in Order — the present keep does no other service than watch the corrosions of the rust

I know not how Genl. Wilkinson writes on the general aspect of our affairs but this I am assured that this country has been greatly neglected; our supplies of regular troops and military stores, have been far short of its proper demands. The hostile and insiduous temper of the Spaniards the general disaffection of the French the contiguity of the Indians are in my humble conception subjects worthy of the particular consideration of the Government — I cannot be made to believe that these things have been fairly represented or it would have drawn a support proportioned to our danger

This Country is saved to us by the imbecility of our enemies and not our abstract strength — what is the defence between the Balize and the City of Orleans — tis too inconsiderable to be enumerated — when we recollect that England France or Spain have navies superior to ours and at this time we are not perfectly secure from either — Even at the City of Orleans what is our force a mere nullity as is acknowled in a letter lately received from the Mayor of that City — can any reliance be had on the inhabitants, only part, the americans may be patriotic but the [illegible] motley concretion of French Spaniards Indians Whi and Mulattoes — the last are numerous and de opposed to our Government under the Spaniards the certain priviledges which satisfied their pride and ga a decent station in society — they are now fallen they sunk to that grade between the poorest white and the s a state which they abhor and will change as soon as an opportunity offers

The Floridas are inhabited by some of the abo discription and the old tories robbers and refugees from Ju however I think I can balance all these with enterprising Americans who have pushed themselves forward with an expectation of an early change of situation these will aid us in the first onset and when they engage we can d rely on their best efforts for emancipation

The upper Towns of the Chactaws have for long time been friendly to us nay I think their friendship now unassailable by the Spaniards — but the lower or six Towns are under that influence and I am disposed to bel as immutably attached to the Spaniards as the upper to the Americans — we have an excellent agent in that quarter one who has deserved well of his Country his le communications contain his fears on that subject.

When all these things are taken aggregately into view and added to a certain domestic enemy the offspring of avarice and power I am disposed to think our situation not the most enviable however I have used the Spanish aggressions as the plea for present vigilance and military array and while I discipline them under the impression I keep them in readiness for any other purpose

Sir I have touched upon the foregoing subjects with the freedom and ease of a republican I have done it in obedience to a sense of duty and should be highly gratified if my services could any way lead to an advancement of our Country and the Terr: as the fortuitous representative of the General Governm I trust that I shall be indulged with all the attributes of that office for the time of my service

I have the honor to be with the assurances
Of highest respect &c &c &c Obe Servt
(Signed) Cowles Mead

The Honble
Henry Dearborn
Secy of War

This letter of appointment to major Claiborne was mislaid, which prevented its being entered at the proper date.

Washington. September 27th 1806.

Sir.

Having ordered a Detachment of the Militia of this Territory to rendezvous at this place on the 2d & 4th of Oct. next which is designed to be attached to the army of the United States stationed at Natchitoches, and having thought proper to select you to take command of the said detachment, with the rank of Major, I do therefore order you to repair to Head Quarters on the said second of October and then and there receive further orders.

In selecting you Sir, to this important command I have had an eye to your former rank, services and experience – the character with which you left the regular service of your Country authorises me to believe that I have chosen a soldier a veteran, officer and a patriot.

Recollecting that the character of the Mississippi Territory is unsettled that it has never had an opportunity to evince those principles which mark the genius of the nation, I have felt and still feel all the solicitude which this momentous crisis of our Country can inspire—Regardant of the honor and reputation of the Territory I have particularly required the com=pletion of this detachment by volunteer enlistments, wishing give it an opportunity of manifesting its national spirit, thereby save the unpleasant & unpatriotic necessity of drafts. But should this anxious hope expire amidst the anarchy local and personal prejudices, it will beget an addition attention on your part to this germ of our military effort—while you extend the indulgences due to men unaccustom to ~~thar~~ drudgery of war, you will not be wanting in your exertions to excite a manly spirit of emulation worthy of veterans—And when you are required to enter the lists the enemies of your Country, you will not forget that to you assigned the honor of making the first impression on the ground of our national fame.

Hopeful that the campaign will terminate to your Glory, and the honorable aggrandizement of our Country,

I am with assurances of confidence and
Respect, Yr. v. y. Hble Servt.

Major Ferd. L. Claiborne }

Cowles Mead
Commander in Chief

General Orders,

Head Quarters
Town of Washington
Oct. 2nd 1806.

The detachment of troops ordered to rendezvous at Head Quar this day and on saturday next will rendezvous at the City of Natch on sunday the 5th inst. at 9 OClk A.M. equipt for service, to receiv orders of Major Ferdinand L. Claiborne, commanding the detach

By Order
W. B. Shields
Aid de Camp

General Orders

Head Quarters
Town of Washington
Oct 3rd 1806.

The several Captains or commanding officers of companies attached to your Regiment are ordered to muster their companies once in every week, and to hold themselves in readiness for actual service at a moments warning

By Order of the Commander
in Chief
W. B. Shields,
Aid de Camp.

John Callier
Lieut. Colo. Commandg
3d. Regmt. M. M. T.

Head Quarters
Washington. Oct 3d 1806.

Major Charmichael,

Your are ordered to deliver to Colo. John Ellis or his order all rifles or muskets now in your charge belonging to the United States, or committed to your care by the late Executive of this Territory Govr. Williams.

Cowles Mead
Commander in Chief of the
Militia of the Mississippi Territory.

Majr. J. F. Charmichael
Wilkinson County.

General Orders.

Head Quarters
Town of Washington
Oct: 4th 1806.

Captain Bisland will report his Company to Major Ferdind. L. Claiborne, commanding the detachment to Natchatoches and receive his further orders.

By Order
W. B. Shields
Aid de Camp.

Washington. Oct. 5th 1806.

Sir.

Having an expectation that peace will flee ou land and war become the order of the day, I have to urge y constant and unceasing attention to the tempers and disp sitions of our Red neighbors — It seems at last that battle must settle our lengthy differences with Spain — the blow is not yet struck, tho every day expected.

Should we be obliged to resort to arms we shall feel the weight of your faithful services in keeping the Chactaw quiet — the Upper Towns we know are our friends, tis the six Towns we only dread — be watchful and frequent in you dispatches.

I am Yr O. Hble Servt

(Signed) Cowles Mead

By Express

John Pytchlinn
Interpreter to the
Chactaw nation

Washington, Oct. 6th 1806.

Sir.

I have received with much satisfaction the account of yo patriotic exertions in raising the quota of militia required from your Regiment — The alacrity of the Officers and men, the zeal which pervades their ranks and excellent state of marching order has ensured the highest respect and confidence of the Executive — They were as prompt as Capt. Farrar's Troop of horse an before all others — they have proven their love of Country and are entitled to the particular attention of their Government. Two of your men (to their credit be it spoken) followed their bra comrades with their packs on their backs — the Commander in Ch delighted with their generous efforts relieved them at this place by supplying them with horses, and they now march on equal terms wi their Companions.

The prospect of war increasing by every account I have had from the Western side of the Mississippi, induces me to transmit some orders by Major Wooldridge for your future attention — You will find the propriety of a strict observance of them — Your frontier state joined to certain internal considerations require all your vigilance and industry — How long it will be before I call on you to follow me to the Floridas, is at this time uncertain, but I apprehend that moment is not far distant — Spain seems disposed to adhere to her unjust claims and we must yield them to her or meet her in the field, — the latter is most compatable with national right and national reputation — To yield at this time would be inevitable disgrace and national degradation. — I think I shall have occasion to try the spirit of my fellow soldiers, if so, I shall enter into the conflict with a confidence that freemen can never be vanquished by the mercenary hirelings of a despot.

Continue Major your exertions to inspirit your men paint the circumstances in a proper point of view and your efforts must be efficacious; — Major Wooldridge and your other brother officers will aid you in the glorious cause, and should I again have to call on you for assistance, I have no doubt but it will be rendered with the same dispatch and military promptitude so conspicuous in your late conduct.

I am Sir with particular
Respect Yr. vy Hble Servt

Cowles Mead

Major White
Commanding the 4th Regiment
of the Mississippi Militia

Head Quarters
Washington

Major John F. Charmichael

Sir,

You are ordered to repair to Hea Quarters on friday the tenth instant, and come prepared to shew Governor Williams' instructions relative to certain rifl committed by him to your care and account to me for the appropriation thereof.

Cowles Mead
Commander in Chief of the
Militia of the M. Territory.

Majr. John F. Charmichael,
Wilkinson County.

General Orders. Head Quarters
Town of Washington. Oct. 8th 1806

The commanding officers of Battalions of the Militia are ordered to appoint patrole officers and men agreeably to the provisions of the 22nd Section of the act organizing the Militia of this Territory approved January 27th 1802 - whose duty it shall be to patrole weekly or oftner if neceſsary in their respective districts and make report of their operations to the Commander in Chief every month.

By Order
W. B. Shields
Aid de Camp.

Head Quarters
Washington. Oct. 9th 1806.

Lieut. Hinds:

Having received information from the Commander in Chief of the army of the United States, which promises the employm of my brave fellow soldiers on our own borders and being of a opinion, that if there is war, the blow will be struck before your arrival, I have thought proper to retain you as a Corpse now ready for service, to march at a moments warning:

You will express to your company the high satisfaction which is felt by the Executive at this evidence of their patriotism and spirit and that he will embrace the earliest ~~opportunity~~ occasion to give them an opportunity to bring their zeal into action.

You are therefore ordered to return to your homes, there continue your recruits and hold yourselves in readiness to march at an hours notice.

Cowles Mead
Commander in Chief

Lieut. Hines,
Commanding the
Jefferson Troop of Horse.

Washington, Oct. 10th 1806.

Dear Sir,

I inclose you an order to receive the arms committed to the care of Lieut. Sevier by Major Charmichael — you will draw them from the Fort or make them responsible to your order.

It is inconvenient under existing circumstances to leave Head Quarters, altho I feel a particular solicitude to visit the 5th Regiment of Militia at this time.

I have not been able to ascertain the positive state of the report relative to the return of our Militia from Nachatoches; should this be a vague rumour, or if it is unsubstantiated by authority, the Wilkinson drafts will immediately execute my order and march — their motions have been extremely lethargic and reprehensable, I am sorry to find a single spot in our Territory so much disposed to abandon the character of the good citizen or soldier; the spirit of disorganization and insubordination so manifest in that quarter has incurred the sensible displeasure of the Commander in

Chief, and impaired that confidence and respect which he wishes to feel towards every segment of his jurisdiction.

Very respectfully yr Hble Servant

Major Scott
Brigade Inspector. } (Signed) Cowles Mead.

Head Quarters
Washington. Oct. 10th 1806.

Sir,

The arms committed to your care by Doctor John F. Charmichael are under the immediate controul and direction of the Executive of this Territory — You are hereby specially ordered to deliver them to Major Scott or hold them responsible to his order.

I am Sir, with particular respect
Yr vy Hble Servt
(Signed) Cowles Mead
Commander in Chief.

Lieut. Lovier,
Comm.g at Fort Adams. }

Head Quarters, Washington
Oct. 12th 1806.

Sir,

Finding the cause for which you were called into the service of your Country removed by the departure of the Spaniards beyond the Sabin and not wishing to keep my brave fellow soldiers from their families and cotton fields, when their attention to public duties are not absolutely ne cessary, I have thought proper to order you to disband your Company for the present, but to hold themselves subject to such orders as you may receiv in fourteen days from this date, which if not received in that time, to be dis charged totally from the present service.

You are requested to assure your officers & men that the commander in Chief is well pleased with the spirit & patriotism which they have shew on this occasion & should our Country have a cause for their future exert they will be called on with confidence and relied upon in the hour of dang

I am Sir, very respectfully yr Hble Serv.
(Signed) Cowles Mead
Commander in Ch

Capt. Stockett }
of the 5th Regiment.

Washington. M. T. Oct. 21st. 1806.

Sir,

The term for which his Excellency Govr. Williams engage engaged the Indian Interpreter at this place expired on the first of this month, I have however thought proper to retain him in the same service at the same price.

The detachment lately ordered from this Territory for the service of the United States has returned - they were in service fifteen and some companies seventeen days - the rolls and Quarter Masters accounts will be forwarded to you by the next mail, if poſsible - I expected to have transmitted the muster Rolls prior to this period but was disappointed by the Brigade Inspector - The term of service was very short, but many of the men expect compensation, you will please specify the mode by which their pay will be settled - such was the naked state of the military stations in this Country that I had to purchase every thing neceſsary for the Campaign - my bills amount to two thousand, four hundred and fifty-five dollars and six cents, which will be accounted for by the Quarter Master by the next mail, as I am aſsured by him - several pack horses, hospital stores and some provisions are now on hand - The horses I should be pleased to send to General Wilkinson for public service, for the injury which they have received from heavy packs will very much reduce their sales at auction below the sums given by the public appraisers - I wrote this morning to this effect to General Wilkinson, and the horses will be kept until I hear from him, after which if not required, they will be sold at auction.

The swords and pistols which were sent for the use of this Territory have all been ordered to Nachatoches altho I expreſsly informed Genl. Wilkinson of the authority which I claimed over them at a time when hostilities were threatened our very frontiers.

Sir, when I received your letter announcing the Tran of these arms, with a specification of the purposes for which th ordered to this Territory, I construed your letter litterally a my late enlistments for the U. States promised these arms to th Cavalry — but behold, when applied for, was informed that the Imperial Mandate of the Generalissimo had drawn a part Natchitoches and secured the others against my application by an order to the Lieutenant Commanding at Fort Adams, that no arms issue from the Fort at the hazard of his Commiss without his, the General's, order — The Gentlemen composing the Cavalry Corps were not pleased at their disappointment and the censure fell on me — the militia likewise felt very unmi in marching one hundred and sixty miles without such arm as were necessary to excite a martial spirit — but being determined to prevent complaint from this officer I pushed the detachment forward under every inconvenience and regardless of every oppositi Had not a war with Spain been very popular throughout this Territory I should have found much difficulty in complying with the General's requisition under these circumstances — And Sir, I speak in the names of five sevenths of this people when I assure y that tho the inhabitants will at all times turn out against Spain they will never enter the service under the present Commander in Chief with confidence or respect.

Permit me to make one request of you, in case fortuitou circumstances should keep me in the discharge of Executive dut that is, if ever General Wilkinson and myself should act together in our public stations, that you expressly define the powers of each invest us with full authority to carry those powers into operation — this will prevent misconstruction and shew in emphatic ter the dispositions of the parties.

With high consideration & Respect
I am your Obt. Servt.
(Signed) Cowles Mea

The Hon'ble
Henry Dearborn
Secy of War.

Washington. Oct. 22d. 1806. 157

Sir.

Your letter of the 20th inst. applying for commissions for a troop of Cavalry of which you have been chosen to take command has received my attention – But prior to a compliance with the requisition, I deem it proper that I should ~~better~~ understand certain acts and declarations of which I have been informed since I had the pleasure to confer with you on this subject.

I have ever thought it preposterous and glaringly derogatory to sound policy to bring men into office in any Government whose attachments are so capricious as to be alternately the friend and the foe, or as would appear, the professed friend and actual enemy – I therefore conclude that propriety consists in an open, candid administration, to be avowed in my opinions of men & measures, and when any ambiguous matter occurs, to trace it thro all its windings and bring if possible its lurking inclinations into view, – not only into my view, but before the inquisitive public – for Sir, I am not one of those who think the local occurrances of a Republican Government should be confined to the closet or the bosom of the Executive – Every individual Freeman is ~~equally~~ interested in the conduct of his fellow citizen, and has a right to preside at the great and important decision of public opinion – By giving all the matter to public view we are saved the perversions of party, of inordinate zeal and malice – Thus arrested, the person charged possesses every advantage for defence, and if improperly arraigned, has an opportunity to avenge his injured feelings by casting all that odium on his adversary which was designed for himself.

After these preliminary remarks, I have to say that if you wish to be informed of the cause of my present opposition to the completion of your Commissions, you will name to me a day on which you will attend at my office, after having requested Captn. Evans, Colo. Baker and your overseer to attend at the same time – this measure I have thought proper to prescribe for the purpose of ascertaining the virgin truth relative to various rumours which bespeak your opposition to my order for a part of the militia of Wilkinson County, to march to Natchitoches in the service of the United States.

The respectable standing which you have ever held in the estimation of your friends and of general society, induces me to wish the adoption of that mode of investigation which will most conduce to the honest exposition of this matter & the respectful treatment of your feelings.

With due respect & consideration
I am yr. Hble Servt.

Robert Temple Esqr.
Wilkinson County } (Signed) Cowles Mead

Washington Oct. 27th 1806.

Joshua Baker Esqr.

Sir.

Being informed that military preparations are making at Baton Rouge which seem preparatory of war, and wishing to place your frontier in a state of vigilance and security, I have thought proper to order you to enlist and enrol, as soon as possible a volunteer light Infantry Company — the confidence which I have in your patriotism induces me to call you into this service for the purpose of watching the motions of the Spaniards and all others, whom you may suspect to be inimical to the peace and order of your domestic society or militant to the interest of this Territory or the United States.

(Signed) Cowles Mead

Washington, Oct. 27th 1806.

Sir.

I have ordered Capt. Baker to enroll a volunteer light Infantry company, for the purpose of watching the Spanish lines and to be ready to co-operate with you, should you have occasi for the service of any part of the militia of this Territory — that he may be prepared for exigencies, I have thought proper to authorize him to receive the rifles committed to your care by Major John F. Charmichael, and you will recognize this as your order to that effect.

With very respectful considerations
I am yr Humble Servant.
(Signed) Cowles Mead

Lieut. Sevier,
Commanding
at Fort Adams.

Head Quarters — Town of
Washington — Oct. 27th 1806.

Major John F. Charmichael,

You will from the moment of the reception of this instrument, consider yourself under arrest — the charges will be forwarded in a few days.

Cowles Mead
Commander in Chief —

Head Quarters - Town of
Washington. Oct. 27th 1806.

Sir,

Inclosed you will receive a paper containing the arrest of John F. Charmichael, Major and Aid de Camp — You are hereby ordered to deliver the said paper or arrest to the Major in person and report the same to me at this place, by the first good opportunity —

Yr. very respectfully
Cowles Mead
Commander in Chief.

Major Hugh Davis
5th Regiment of Militia
M. Territory.

Head Quarters
Town of Washington
Nov. 2nd 1806.

You will repair to Head Quarters on thursday the 13th instant then and there to attend a Court martial appointed to preside on the trial of Major John F. Charmichael – By order of the Commander in Chief.

Major Joseph Johnson }

W. B. Shields
Aid de camp.

A similar order to the foregoing was issued to Major Hugh Davis, and orders were directed by the Commander in Chief to the following officers to preside on the same trial – viz. Col. Ozmun, Majors Claiborne & Sessions, Capts Voss, Carter, Morrow & Haggatt of the 1st Regiment. – Col. Fitzpatri Majors Flaharty & Miller, Captains Abrams & Ross of th 2nd Regiment, – Major White of the 4th Regiment Capt Davis of the 5th Regiment, dated the 3rd of Nov. 1

Cowles Mead. Secy

Head Quarters
Town of Washington
Nov. 2nd 1806.

Charges exhibited by the Secretary of the Mississippi Territory, exercising the powers and performing the duties of Governor and Ex officio Commander in Chief of the Militia of the same, against Major John F. Carmichael Aid de Camp to the Commander in Chief of the Militia of the Mississippi Territory.

1st. Disobedience of Orders.
2nd Contemptuous treatment of the Orders of the Commander in Ch
3rd. Resistance and mutinous opposition to the General O of the Comander in Chief.

Specification – the second charge is here entered improperly, before the first, by mistake —

2nd Disobedience of the Order of the 6th of October 1806, directed to you, by which you were ordered to repair to Head Quarters and account to the Commander in Chief for the disposal & appropriation of the aforesaid Rifles,

1st Disobedience of the order of the third of October 1806 directed to you for the delivery of certain rifles to Colonel John Ellis of the 5th Regiment, committed to your charge by the Governor of the Mississippi Territory:

3rd Resistance and mutinous opposition to the General order of the 25th Sept. 1806. for the enlistment or draft of a quota of the Militia of the 5th Regiment for the service of the United States.

You are ordered to repair to Head Quarters on thursday the 13th instant, then and there to answer to the above charges before a Court Martial summoned to preside at your trial on that day.

By order of the Commander in Chief.

John F. Carmichael
Major and Aid de Camp to the Commander in Chief of the Militia of the Mississippi Territory

Will. B. Shields,
Major & Aid De Camp.

The foregoing charges and order served on Major John F. Carmichael at Fort Adams, November 4th 1806.

W. B. Shields

Whereas it has been represented to me, by the Sheriff of the County of Adams that the Court House thereof has been burnt down, and that at the place required by law for holding the Circuit and County Courts of the said County, there is no sufficient or convenient building, Be it therefore Ordered &c that the County Court to be holden on monday next, for the said County, meet at such place as they or a majority thereof may deem most conducive to their convenience and the accomodation of the County.

the Judges of the Court, for the County Adams. } Given under my hand at the Town of Washington, this the 8th day of November 18.06 (signed) Cowles Mead – ex officio Governor of the Mississippi Territory.

164

Washington, M. T. Nov: 10th 1806

Sir:

I herewith enclose you the accounts, vouchers &c of the Quarter Master of the detachment lately ordered to Natchitoches in the service of the United States — with these I send you a Copy his letter to me explanatory of certain items which he thought not exactly regular — but as these irregularities were suggested for convenience of & just the militia who were poor and badly provided, I trust the Secretary of War will arrange them in such a manner as to save perplexity, when the public good was the real cause of that error.

The Quarter Master's letter ~~as~~ is so full and comprehensive as to save a particular explication from me.

The medicines I propose to send to Fort Adams for the use of the army of the United States as I am informed they are there really wanted, and a public sale would not bring near the amount given for them.

As soon as possible I shall transmit you an account of the sales or appropriation of the public property now on hand — after sending the medicines into the use of the United States the public can't loose in the resale of any material article but the horses, — these we will endeavor to do the best with

I should be well pleased to have some person appointed to pay the troops and settle the accounts as soon as possible.

Yr. Hble Servt

The Hon.ble
Secy of War
(Signed) Cowles Mead

Washington, Nov. 13th 180[illegible]

Sir,

Your letter of the 12th inst has had my deliberate attent and I am constrained to say that your requisition cannot a present be complied with; unless the cause is so fairly sh to me as to produce a belief that it is absolutely necessar to the interest of the United States — that I have a right t make this demand will be perfectly understood from your instructions — if a further eclaircissement is required for the purpose of determining my reasons, you shall command it by letter or otherwise — in the mean time I will give you one reason which was communicated to me on yesterday — viz, that three several companies of painted Indians have been seen on our frontier, and tho they have not yet taken a scalp, they have committed several robberies and greatly annoyed travellers on the Nashville trace.

I am Sir, yr Hble Servt

Genl. James Wilkinson } (Signed) Cowles Mead
Natchez . . . }

— Address — December the 2nd 1806 —

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council
& House of Representatives —

Called by fortuitous incidents to the performance of the Executive functions of this Territory, I felt on the commencement of the arduous task, all the diffidence natural attached to inexperience — ignorant of those circumstances which beget prejudice and establish local regards, unacquainted with the habits, manners or usages of this people, I dreaded the perilo station which I was bound to occupy: but permit me to demonstrate to you the gratitude which I feel towards this Territory —

- altho I entered your Government under the circumstances how greatly was I felicitated to find the spirit of unpatriotic had subsided - and the generous seeds of ~~unpatriotic~~ for- bearance and love of social harmony had, Phenix like, rise from the ashes of discord and dissention. ~~Altho opinions~~ have undergone a total change, altho an exact association of princip not exist, there was strongly marked that principle, which con the grand distinction between Republican and other Govern viz, a respectful tolerance of the opinions of others. With this born guide, this ne plus ultra of human charity, we shall in private life, that confidence which is necessary to the compl =mony of our various social relations, and that reliance on each other which constitutes our political security. Early servant of these pleasing truths, I sought every means of pro ting them, and have to the utmost of my ability, endeavored to con centrate the wisdom and talents of good men for the general w fare of our Territory. This task has been a pleasing one, & one which I flatter myself has had a beneficial effect; in the attem I have not been unaided; I have found a politeness in all the ranks of ~~society~~ Character and a respect in all the officers of Government, which induces me to believe that the minds of the People were prepared and anxiously disposed to meet the views of such an administration, & to my feelings it has ha the happiest issue.

I cannot express too warmly my thanks and regard for the prompt and satisfactory support, which I have received, not only from Gentlemen of private Stations, but more especially the mark alacrity of officers to further the views of the Executive. Direct all my efforts to the happiness of this Territory, I have never want those demonstrations of confidence and respect which are the best rewards to public officers who act to the good of the whole & not to individu aggrandizement.

With these sentiments Gentlemen I now meet you and from the acquaintance which I have had the pleasure to make with yo private life, I am disposed to believe that your efforts will to the same desirable point, and that the purity of your will be demonstrated by the wisdom displayed in Counc correctness of those laws which will pass your decisions.

The task assigned you by your Country, tho honorable and importan is arduous; it therefore requires that kind of circumspection which is necessary to the perfect understanding of every measure investigat in your respective bodies — we are but infants in political life, we are at that particular date in political history which is of the first magnitude; it is in infancy that those impressions are mad which stamp the character of the man or the nation; the wisdom of a good begining may ensure a long chain of national felicities, & plant permanently those principles which will be seasibly felt in puberty, transmitted thro good old age to posterity with the best effects to ourselves, & then be handed down to our children with all that reverence & affection due to ~~a~~ parentale benignity.

Altho you are limited in your powers, you still have much to d the establishment of internal police, the happy organization of matters exclusively of a local nature, are of the greatest mome to a young Government — at this time the character of this Territory is to be formed, at this period, and with the powers you already poss you will lay the ground work on which your future fame, greatness and happiness will much depend — by a strict attention to those points, you will be furthering the great purposes of Government and thereby put yourself in a state of readiness to glide with ease into the grand federative Compact of the Union.

Permit me Gentlemen, to introduce and press upon your attention a subject which has often fallen under legislative consideration, but from some unhappy cause, has failed of that success which its importance in a Republican Government should ever command, viz, Literary Establishments — Science is the parent of every virtue, the fosterer of every great, good & important purpose; it is the pola star by which the Philosopher is lighted, the moralist directed, and the Legislator informed — In tracing the origin and progress, the maturity, the decline and fall of nations, we find that they preserv constant ratio to the portion of intelligence & wisdom possessed by the nation; as ignorance extends so in proportion does the fluence of immorality, and in proportion does corruption bition rise in power. Examine the histories of the past world, the refined character of ancient Greece with its neighbouring nations like a splendid orb of light stands associated with a cloud of darkness; made more dark by the reflection — Compare Rome Republican orbit, with the barbarians of Germany, Dalmatia Mauritania, & how is the mind of the philanthrophist delighted with the first and gloomed by the latter. In the train of the one we associate all the benevolencies of the heart, all the felicity of domestic life, all the virtues of the patriot and the pure sanctity of piety — on the other we have only to point at the savage and the picture is portrayed.

But Gentlemen these evils are not confined to private life, they rise to government and take with them their baneful consequences into the Executive Chamber, the Senatorial Forum and the seat of Justice; all the acts of political agency are polluted by them, and the nation thus tainted feels the poison to the very To prove this, we have only to inquire what nations have been most happy, useful or glorious — the same answer applies, it is where science reigns, where the human mind has broken the fetters of ignorance, and soars above the mounds prescribed by prejudice, habit or superstition. Altho I am not so visionary as to believe perfection attainable, I can feel the vast distance between science and ignorance, and you must admit with me that it is the source of every good & great achievement — the alpha and Omega of national, dignity prosperity & virtue.

To crowd a variety of matter or speculation on you at this time is foreign to my purpose — when the corner stone is laid ~~the~~ it is time enough to progress with the body of the edifice — science is that corner stone — to raise a superstructure, without this ground work, is to build on sand, subvertible by every blast, and easily overthrown by the ingenious agents of ambition, avarice or fraud.

Taught by the experience of centuries, warned by the experience of fallen states and nations, cautioned by the miseries of others us begin our young Republic by providing largely & munificently for the general diffusion of knowledge — let the poor be supp with the means of education— Let schools be created throughout your Territory on such generous terms as will enable every citizen to understand his proper station in society, enable him to form a correct opinion of his intrinsick weight in the scale of national consideration —qualify him to detect the [illegible] craft & duplicity, and expose the lurking designs of the [illegible] hypocrite.— This done you have laid the foundation to an [illegible] whose walls will rise in splendor whose durability will vie with [illegible]pt's long famed pyramids, and stand the lasting monument of your wisdom, philantrophy and virtue — posterity will look back with gratitude and reverence thro ages of felicity to your organization, and your names will stand enrolled among the worthies and sages of the Western World

Inhabiting a Country rich in soil, blessed in climate, and happily provided with all the avenues to commerce, you bid fair to rival in a short time the oldest States in the union. In ten years your territorial advantages must command a population proportioned to your fondest wishes, and place us high in the scale of national importance.— Altho we have labored against every difficulty— surrounded by enemies and savages— situated at a great distance from that bulwark on which we must eventually ~~depend~~ rely— still you have grown with wondrous rapidity, and is now promised an early acquisition of every advantage, political and private —with this pleasing and certain prospect before you, with this wide field of aggrandizements, I hope to see the Territory rise above the cramped doctrines of other new Countries— but taught by their experience learn to begin where they terminated—

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council &
House of Representatives.

Having been called on by the commanding Genl. of the army of the United States for a certain portion of the Militia of this Territory, I exerted every talent to arouse that generous spirit of patriotism which was necessary to the completion of that requisition and permit me here to express the pride which I felt in the prompt and zealous co-operation which I received from the officers and men of the Territory— it will stand on record a monument

of their devotion to their Country, and has given this Execu
pleasing assurance that the people of this Territory will
be backward in defending those rights and protecting the
ledges which constitute them the freest and happiest people
earth. But Gentlemen I have to regret that the military
the Territory could not have been displayed in a way
substantially beneficial to the real interest of our Country
had fondly hoped that the crisis had arrived when we mig
avenge the long catalogue of injuries received from a tr
and unjust neighbor — and thereby remove the cause of
fears which will ever hang over us, so long as they occupy ou
vicinity — how far the Commanding General may have serve
the views of the General Government, is for that Government to de
but as their fortuitous representative, I have no hesitation in say
that we never can be safe until the Floridas are owned by the Uni
States, and therefore was of the opinion that we should embrace
the earliest opportunity of taking them by force. The Spanish
Government has been forward in giving us causes of offence,
and have repeatedly done those things, which would justify
hostilities on our part.

Another subject, Gentlemen, claims your interposition — it
is one on which I touch with much delicacy; but as I have long
been sensible of its unhappy tendencies, I am induced to call it
to your notice, and that is the Land-Office Establishment.
It is true that you are unauthorised to correct any evils which
may grow out of the law, but you have in your power the mea
by which reparation may be obtained — on this subject I find
no diversity of opinion, no schism, no opposition; all parties have
agreed in this fatal declaration, that the law itself has been gr
ly destructive of the harmony of the people, and the operation
vexatious in the extreme. Coming as you have from the vari
sections of the Territory, you are, no doubt prepared to sh
the minds of your constituents — you are prepared to con
sense of the Territory, and by an address to the Genl. Gover
fully claim its parental interposition. — Gentlemen,
the sensibility of the President is perfectly alive to the
-tudes of the west — when it is properly manifested to

that there is but one pulse, one sensation on this subject, I know he will respect an opinion so universal among a free people—a fair memorial of the conduct of the officers and the general effect of the law, will I think, have the happiest results and a tendency to heal the wounds which have been so unfortunately inflicted on the minds of a large portion of the good citizens of this Territory.

On my establishment in your Government, I felt some solicitude to understand your fiscal relations; in tracing this subject I have great cause of congratulation to you on the near extinguishment of all your debts—released from all old burthens, and bleſsed with a Country rich in every pecuniary advantage, you may now turn your attention to the useful ornaments of your Country, without paſsing the lines drawn by the honest finger of economy—the apportionment of taxation, to the state of immediate demand has been a popular but an unwise policy—to be prepared for war is the ready way to preserve peace—so to provide your treasury with a certain stock in advance of your immediate demands, is to guard against contingencies which will not wait the slow progreſs of Legislative rules and resolutions. To oppreſs my fellow Citizens, for the purpose of guarding against distant evils, is not my object, it may be contained in a plain expreſsion, viz, that you may purchase cheaper with cash than on the credit of any nation on earth—and you thereby obtain a character in pecuniary matters which secures not only the confidence of our own citizens but of foreign States and nations—a State without the confidence of its citizens or a Government without credit is a fabrick of straw—and stands amidst the nations of the earth, as a mark of derision and contempt. To recapitulate my arguments in a few words I would advise such a tax as will discharge your expendatures and provide an annual surplusage for the calls of your Treasury.

It is with much pleasure that I inform you that th task of compiling the statutes of your Territory is acc plished; — a letter from his Honor Judge Toulmin a me to say that a copy thereof will be laid before you in Course of this Session. — His prompt [illegible] of honor, in a work of so much ~~[illegible]~~ importa entitles him to the thanks of his Country — and no doub reward will be proportioned to the merit.

In travelling over the Territory, I have been sorry a general disregard of that important convenience, w arises from good roads; and I am the more astonished w I recollect that the planter is most effected thereby — wh a Country becomes so immersed in partial or pecuniary persuits, as to sight of the general good, it betokens a want of patrio and is a strong evidence of the predominancy of avarice. T charge I trust will not be permitted long to stand against the Ter

Another subject of a partial nature I offer to your con eration — a bold and nefarious intention has been manifest to destroy public buildings of the County of Adams — The Co House is already in ashes, and various attempts have been to demolish the jail in the same way, even at the hazard of lives of the unfortunate persons confined there by the law their Country. To guard against a diabolical act so often atened, I directed the jailor to guard the premises at th expense of the County, and even to draw out the whole fo of the County if it should be found necessary. I now beg to transfer this subject to your consideration; and solicit y early attention thereto.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council &
House of Representatives

Permit me to express an anxious hope for an in trious and harmonious Session — Trusting that every me will be directed to the promotion of the real interest of our Government, I tender you my cordial cooperation.

(Signed) Cowles Mea

(Confidential) (1)

To the honorable the Legislative Council and House of Representatives.

Having received intelligence of a certain but confidential nature, which assures me of the existance of a plot designed to destroy the connections which exists between this Territory and the Government of the United States, and being disposed to take such measures as will be necessary to the defeat of these plans, I have thought it advisable to solicit the aid of the Territorial Legislature — To have your sanction and guarrantee will be evincive of the strongest attachment to the Union, and enable me not only to act the agent of the General Government, but speak the sense of the people of this Territory — thus sustained I shall proceed in my measures with confidence, and shall commence such operations as will ensure the security of our Country against any enemy — With these preliminaries permit me to suggest the policy of immediately providing a fund for the organization of a Battalion of minute men, consisting of 225 in number, subject to the order and controul of your Executive — any other measures advised by the Territorial Legislature for the general defence and welfare of the Territory will receive my cordial cooperation — With these suggestions, I beg leave to assure your honorable bodies that I have made these requisitions under a a full conviction of the existance of a conspiracy against our peace and welfare — And further, that all powers intrusted to me will be used alone to the interest of our Common Country with the most rigid regard to economy.

(Signed) Cowles Mead

Decr. 15th. 1806.

174

By Cowles Mead Secy (3)

Executing the powers & performing the duties of
Governor of the Mississippi Territory –

Proclamation.

Whereas information from various sources,
well by affidavits as otherwise has been communicated
to me of the designs of an association, whose object is the
dismemberment of this and the neighboring Countries from
the Government of the United States – And Whereas every attempt of this Kind must be ruinous & destructive of the numerous blessings which we now enjoy under the auspices of
Government founded on the grand principles of political
equality and indiscriminate justice; – and Whereas the conspiracy is directed by men secret and profound intrigu
for the aggrandizement of themselves and their minions
to the oppression of the great mass of the people, whom they
are endeavoring to dupe & inveigle:– From the foregoing
causes I have thought proper to issue this my Proclamation
for the purpose of guarding the good people of this Territory
against the agents of this diabolical plot, and warn them
of their danger ~~in~~ from that quarter – And I do hereby solemnly
call on and enjoin the officers both civil & military a
the citizens of this Territory to perform their sacred duties
to their Country by aiding and abetting in the detection
of any agents employed in this Country and if found, to be brought
without delay before the proper tribunals of the Country, th
they may receive their trials for such high offences against
the peace and happiness of the Mississippi Territory and
the dignity and sovereignty of the United States – And I

do further enjoin and require the officers and citiz of the Territory to be on the alert and prove their patrio by giving such assistance for the developement of this traiterous project as their respective situations will afford.

And Whereas I am aware of the influence of intrigue and misrepresentation, and that men of pure intentio may sometimes be deluded, I do therefore invite all of this discription to return to the bosom of their Country and the confidence of their Government.

And Whereas I have reasons to believe that many of the officers of this Government have not taken the oaths required by the Ordinance of Congress and the Statute of the Territory: I do in consequence thereof, require all officers who have not taken the said Oaths to come forward & take the same in the course of fifteen days from the date of this Proclamation: And in default thereof, I do hereby revoke all the powers civil or military which they possess and their Commissions are hereby vacated and annulled.

L.S.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Territory at the Town of Washington this the twenty third day of ~~Sept~~ December 1806 & of the Independence of the United States the thirty-first

Cowles Mead

176

(3)

Head Quarters
Town of Washington
Decr. 25th 1806

General Orders.

Having received information from various and correct sources of the existence of a traiterous combination of individuals, who have formed themselves into an association for the purpose of executing designs inimical to the peace happiness and union of our Common Country; and being willing and anxious as the Representative of the General Government of the United States to pursue such measures as may best subserve its true interests and the interests of this Territory, I have deemed it essential at this crisis to issue these my General Orders, for the more complete organization of the militia of the Territory.

The 1st Regiment will muster at the Town of Washington on thursday the 8th of January at 11 Oclk —

The 2d Regiment on Saturday the 14th of Jany at Greenville at 11 Oclk.

The 4th Regiment on Monday the 12th of Jany at Gibson Port, at 11 Oclk.

The 5th Regiment on Saturday the 17th at Percy's plantation at 11 Oclk.

Every commissioned officer, noncommissioned officer and private will appear on parade equipt according to Law or suffer the penalties therein prescribed.

By order of the Commander in Chief

W. B. Shields
Aid de Camp.

(7)

Head Quarters, Town of Washingto
Decr 29th 1806

You are ordered to vacate the commissions of every officer in your Regiment who does not reside within the bounds of his command and report the same to me immediately — and it is hereby Ordered that every officer has been in the habit of exercising a command in which he does not reside, remove instantly to the same or his commission is hereby vacated and annulled —

You are ordered to consider the Commission of Capt Mills vacated and the powers of the same are hereby revoked — and to appease the discontents of the people of that district you are ordered to hold an election for a Capt of the said district, at which every person required to do militia duty will be entitled to a vote — and the person having the highest number of legal votes being returned to the Executive will receive a commissio therefor —

You are likewise ordered to discharge and dismiss every arrest or fine which may have been made or levied ~~from~~ on or from the privates or officers of the said district, viz Capt Mills' district since the date of his Commission

Cowles Mead
Commander in Chief
of the Militia of the
Mississippi Territory

Col. McCallier
3rd Regmt. Militia
M. Territory

Washington Jany 12th 1807

(8)

Sir,

Independant of the orders which you will receive from the Commander in Chief, you are hereby authorized to take every step which you may deem proper for the defence of your Country or for the detection of all and every person whom you may think suspicious — The confedence of the Executive is with you and he relies much on your promptitude & zeal — let nothing be wanting to aid the great object of national security — Our Country & our characters are now at stake — It is for us to prove ourselves worthy of the confedence of our Territory and of the General Government —

With high respect.
I am Yr v. y Hble Servt
Cowles Mead

Colo. Fitzpatrick
2nd Regt. M. M. T.

---

(9)

Head Quarters, Town of Washington
Jany 12th 1807 —

You are ordered to enrole a company of sixty-four rank & file by voluntary enlistments or drafts and have them marched to Head Quarters by Wednesday the 14th inst. or sooner if possible

Colo. Fitzpatrick —
2nd Regt. Militia M. T.

(Signed) Cowles Mead. Comdr in Chief

---

(10)

Head Quarters — Town of Washington
Jany 12th 1807 —

You are ordered to enlist a company of sixty four rank and file and have them marched to this place by Friday the 16th inst. or sooner if possible — equipt for one fortnights service or longer if deemed necessary by the Commander in Chief —

Colo. Woolridge
4th Regmt. Militia
of the M. Territory

(Signed) Cowles Mead.
Comdr in Chief

Washington, Jany 12th 1807

(11)

Sir

Independent of the orders which you may receive from the Commander in Chief, you are particularly ordered to exten your vigilance to all the Territory and exert every authority which you may deem necessary to the detection and security of suspicious persons, and the defence of the Territory in which you hold a Commission — the confiden of the Executive is with you and you will act for the general good whenever the occasion may occur —

Yrs very respectfully

Cowles Mead

Capt. Joshua Baker
Wilkinson County

---

(12) Head Quarters, Town of Washington
Jany 12th 1807.

You are ordered to enroll fifty men from your Regiment, and being officered you will attach them to the command of Capt Baker.

Cowles Mead, Comdr in Chief

Col. Ellis
5. Regt. Ma M. Ty

---

(13) Head Quarters — Town of Washington
Jany 12th 1807

You are ordered to muster your troop of cavalry on Friday the 16th inst. at your usual place of parade and hold them in readiness to march at a moments warning

Cowles Mead. Comdr in Chief

Capt. Humphries
of the Claiborne Troop of Horse.

(14)

Washington, Jany 12th 1807.

Sir,

It is apprehended that Col. Burr may land at or near the walnut Hills - You are therefore ordered to appoint such number of persons as you may think sufficient to act as a guard along the river - appoint your own officers, and be careful to select persons of unquestionable patriotism to command the guard - The Commander in Chief authorises you to take every step you may think proper for the safety of our Common Country and much will depend on your exertions - We have authority from Government as we may deem proper and we are thereby told of the certain approach of this Troublesome man - Be on the alert and take every measure you may think proper for the defence of your County & the detection of all persons of suspicious aspect -

With great confidence, I am yr
Hble Servt
Cowles Mead

W. Woolridge
Col. 4th Regmt
Mi. M. Territory

---

(15)

Washington. Jany 12th 1807.

Sir.

Having ordered Captn Baker to enrall and hold in readiness a certain number of troops for the service of the United States, you are directed to supply him with such number of rations as he may apply for —

Cowles Mead

Jno. Brandt,
Agent to the contractor
for the army of the United States

(16) Washington, Jany 12th 1807

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council
& House of Representatives. —

In Consequence of communications received from the General Government I am now convinced that the cloud which has so long been anticipated begins to assume a settled aspect of offen -charged with belligerant countenance it slowly prepa upon us and presages an explosion dangerous to domestic safety and insulting to national dignity.

These communications bid us convert the pen of Legislation into the weapon of war, and suspend the eloquence of debate for the clangor of military array.

You who blend the civil & the military characters must relinquish for the moment the functions of the first, while you assume the prerogatives of the latter — the station which you leave, tho honorable & important, is exchanged for one, where your patriotism may be as effectually displayed, and where you may acquire new claims to the confidence of your Country —

How long this Cloud will hang over your heads is entirely uncertain, but it is deemed unsafe to be setting here in the pacific operations of legislation while our Country's honor call us to the field.

From you Gentlemen who wear the garb of civic rule, we ~~ha~~ pect that aid which the good and the patriotic may afford y example — Your respective standings in your Counties, and mong your fellow Citizens is such as will give weight and fluence to your opinions and your example — in remand ing you to your homes you are not suspended in your duti ng you are transferred to a theatre where your services may be more important and beneficial to our Country.

From the forgoing causes, I do prorogue the Legislative Council & House of Representatives for the Miſsiſsippi Territory, from this day to monday the 19th ~~inst~~ and you are Hereby prorogued to the said 19th day of this instant.

During this interval, arrangements will be made for the proper organization of active corps for the defence of the Territory and the adoption of such measures as will best sustain the honor of our Country and shew our affection and confidence in the General Government.

I now Gentlemen bid adieu to my civil character—tomorrow I aſsume the military prerogatives of my office and shall leave you at this time with the fullest aſsurance of your patriotism, and in my revolutions thro the Territory I shall expect to find you at your respective posts performing the duties which you may be required to execute in the general defence of our Country.

Accept Gentlemen my warmest confidence in your public integrity and my particular solicitudes for your happineſs in your domestic relations.

(Signed) Cowles Mead

Capt. Baker. Natchez. Jany 13th 1807.

Col. Burr was at the Bayou Pierre yesterday morning. one of his boats paſsed this place last night_ You will immediately station your company on the bank of the Miſsiſsippi at or near to Ft. Adams and keep them at their post until further orders_ You will interrupt every boat that may paſs and examine them.

By order.
W. B. Shields
Aid de Camp

(17)

Washington. M. T. Jany 13th. 18

Sir.

I have just time by the mail to inform you that I recd this morning a letter from Colo. Burr at Bayou Pier avowing the innocence of his views and the fallacy of certai rumours against his patriotism — his object is agricultu and his boats the vehicles of emigration — However several militia corps were ordered to be on the alert and apprehend him and all suspicious persons on the day before the recep tion of his letter — These orders may possibly bring him to my possession — In his letter he hints at resistance to any attempt to coerce him and deprecates a civil war — The hints will have no influence on my conduct — He will b apprehended if possible at the hazard of the lives of my militia and the honor of the Executive — the want of arms and amunition is the only ground on which w predicate a fear of his escape — Genl Wilkinson left us perfectly bare of arms & amunition, and in dismantling Fort Adams he took away every kind of military appara tus — we are all bustle and activity — I hope in a day or two to give you a better account of this troublesome man

A boat passed Natchez last night was hailed and pursued by the guard — they fired two guns at the pursuers and made their escape being better manned.

The Citizens of this Country are Republicans and patrio and in their exertions I have every reliance —

Tender the homage of my most respectful consideration to the President of the United States, and accept the assurancy of my best respects

(Signed) Cowles Mead

The Honble:
Henry Dearborn.
Secy of War.

184

Washington, Jan.y 13th 1807

20

Sir

I rec^d by your Expreſs, Col^o Burr's letter addreſsed to myself, and must acknowledge that I should be proud to find him as innocent as he there profeſses himself— Prior to the rec^t of this you will have pursued such a conduct as seemed best adapted to the interest of the Territory and the security of its inhabitants— You will recollect that should the Col^o submit himself to civil authority, you will shew him the respect due to his standing— but should he resist you will adopt such conduct as your best judgment may suggest—

Should Col^o Burr be disposed to pay due regard to the authority of our Government, you are requested to aſsure him from me that every security shall be given to private property and every respect paid him and his aſsociates, which can be done after being aſsured that his plans are not directed against the United States or its Territories— You may further aſsure him of the particular solicitude I feel for the verification of his profeſsions to me— and further if he has been vilified or injured by rumour or the Pensioned he shall receive all the benefits of my individual civility and the full and complete protection of the laws of the Territory.

Confiding in your discretion and patriotism I submit this important subject to your charge.

Col^o Fitzpatrick
of the 2^d Regiment

With great Respect
Yr. v.y Hble Servt.
Cowles Mead

Sir. 21 Washington. Jan.y 13th 1807.

You are requested forward to Genl. Wilkinson the knowledge which you poſseſs of the situation of Aron Burr Esqr.— You will employ such an Agent as you may confide in, & be sure that he be such a person as may be confided in, in point of character & industry.

Being in poſseſsion of the real state of Col^o Burr and well acquainted with the views of Government, you will make such a communication as your own knowledge will best prescribe

Major Scott
Brigade Inspector

Yrs very respectfully
(Signed)
Cowles Me

Washington, M. T. Jany 14th 1807

25

Sir

Presuming that you have been stationed at Point Cupee for the purpose of intercepting Colo. Burr in his descent of the river, who is suspected of designs against the peace and interest of the United States — I have thought proper to advise you of his having arrived at Bayou Pierre — we are ignorant of his strength or views — but thinking that a cooperation of our fo might facilitate his apprehension or defeat, I have deem it prudent to make you this communication by Express

I shall be well pleased to know the arrangements which you make in consequence hereof in

Yr Vy Obt Servt

Cowles Mead

The Commandant of
the Squadron stationed
at Point Cupee

26

Head Quarters, Town of Washington
Jany 14th 1807

You are ordered to convene the whole force of your Regiment at Gibson Port by 12 O'Ck on the 16th inst. or sooner if possible, equipt for actual service and there to remain till further orders.

Signed: Cowles Mead
Commander in Chief

Colo. Wooldridge of the
4th Regmt. of the militia
of the M. Territory

27

Head Quarters. Town of
Washington Jany 14th 1807.

You are ordered to convene the whole force of the Militia of the 2nd Regiment a Greenville by three O'Ck on the 15th inst. or as soon as possible thereafter equipt for actual service & there to remain for further orders

Capt. Abrams will act as your Quarter Master and make such supplies of provision as the militia may require — Be attentive to the discipline and the subordination of the men when in camp

The Officer Commandg the
2nd Regmt. of Militia.

(Signed). Cowles Mead
Commander in Chief.

Washington, Jany 15th 1807

28

Sir.

Your approach to this Country has excited not only
apprehensions of the General Government but alarmed i
high degree the good Citizens of this Territory — from these ca
I have ordered my militia to rendezvous at such places as will
them to guard this Territory against any designs inimical to this
=ment — But having heard thro Colo Wooldridge that you prof
perfect innocence of the views charged to you, I have thought
proper to send you a confidential Aid de Camp to receive
from you such information on this subject as you may please
to make — He will communicate freely with you, and
you may implicitly confide in every assurance which he
may make in my name.

I have the honor to be yr
V. y Hble Servt
Cowles Mead

Colo A. Burr.
Bayou Pierre

Washington Jany 19th 1807
Mississippi Territory

Sir 39

~~Sir~~ In obedience to your instructions by express of the 20th of Decemb
last I immediately prorogued the Legislature and then proceeded to
put the Territory in a State of preparation for the arrestation of the
suspicious persons and boats which were contemplated ~~that were~~ ~~complated~~ ~~through~~ my Militia
were collected at particular points on the river when I recd a letter
from Colo Burr, who had landed at Bayou Pierre with nine boats and
about one hundred men — This letter went to an avowal of his
innocence of the charges which ~~rumour~~ rumour and public apprehension ha
announced against him and solicited me to appease the fears
his approach had begotten, at the same time he guarded

horrors of civil war and the evils resulting from such a state of things, it this feeling that induced me to adopt ~~his pacific demeanor~~ a different a different mode of conduct from what the Col. might have expected and instead of adopting his pacific demeanor, I ordered a very large portion of the Militia of the Territory to rendezvous at certain points and wait further orders — with the promptitude of Spartans our fellow Citizens shouldered their fire locks and in twenty four hours I had the honor to review 275 men at Natchez prepared to defend their Country, they were ordered under the Command of Col. Claiborne to a point on the river about 21 miles above the City there to remain to guard the ~~City~~ River and intercept for inspection all boats that might descend the river, — on the 16th I despatched two of my Aids to Col. Burr who had tendered his respects to the civil authority these Gentlemen engaged on my part to give the Col.o an interview in the neighbourhood of the detachment stationed at the mouth of Coles Creek — conformable thereto I met the Col.o on the 17th and after a lengthy interview he offered to surrender himself to the civil authority of the Territory and to suffer his boats to be searched — on the 18th Col.o Burr accompanied by my aids Majors Shields and Poindexter, rode down to this place and was committed to the highest tribunal of the Civil authority, where he now remains for trial

Four Gentlemen of unquestionable ~~respectability~~ respectability with a detachment of 30 men are now in the act of making the search of the boats and tomorrow I expect their report — Thus far this mighty alarm, with all its ~~m~~ exaggerations has eventuated in nine boats and one hundred men and the major part are boys or young men just from School — many of their depositions have been taken before Judge Rodney, but they bespeak ignorance of the views or designs of the Col. — I believe them really ignorant and deluded, I believe that they are the dupes of ~~strag~~ strategem, of the apprehensions of Gen.l

Eaton and Wilkinson are to accredited.—

The various letters rumours and publications on the subject of this induced me to expect a much larger ~~force~~ Force, I therefore drew a propor-tioned force out into the field — many of them being unarmed I have used the Credit of the Government ~~this Committee~~ therefor, — all the ammunition was had to purchase in the same way — which will make Col. Burrs visit to this Country a very expensive one to the United States and very troublesome one to our Militia — But so far it has afforded them an opportunity to demonstrate ~~to~~ their attachment to the Genl. Government and they have done so with honor to themselves and their Country — their alacrity was never exceeded even in the reign of our Glorious Revolution — The night after their encampment, without tents, or any of ordinary campt comforts, a heavy snow fell upon them which they bore without a murmur — on the 18th I visited them in camp amidst the snow and mud, to inform them of the surrender of Col. Burr and discharge them from the present service — They met me with cheerful and animated countenances, which proved that they were delighted with an opportunity of shewing their love of Country —

Permit me to recommend them to the attention of the President of the United States — and say to him that they ~~were~~ are worthy of the affection of their fellow Citizens ~~through~~ throughout the Union

I am bound by Justice to distinguish the patriotic alacrity of Col. Claiborne who commanded the detachment and bore with his fellow Soldiers all the rigor of the season, as a Soldier should have done. I would likewise acknowledge with pleasure the aid and assistance of of Col. Fitzpatrick and the prompt services of Major Lessany of the first regiment — My aids Major Shields and Poindexter, have large claims on my confidence and approbation — nay, Sir, every officer of this detachment merits a particular distinction and have secured the respect of their Executive

With high ~~respect~~ consideration I am
Yr vy Hble Servt
(Signed) Cowles Mead

The Honble
Henry Dearborn
Secy of War

Jany 20th 1807

A Copy of the foregoing journal from page 129 was this day transmitted to the secretary of State together with a copy of the appointments marked in the Register

Cowles Mead
Secretary of the Mississippi
Territory

---

42 Jany 21st 1807. Washington M. T.

Sir

I have the satisfaction to announce to you that we have delivered Colo. Burr to the civil authority of this Territory, which is invested with complete jurisdiction in all cases involving the interests of the United States. The vigilance of the tribunal before whom this (distinguished offender) now stands may be confidently relied on, we want only that convincing testimony which we are persuaded you can afford to bring to condign punishment a culprit whose conduct menaces the peace and good order of every rank of society in the United States.

I have therefore to solicit that you will immediately take measures to procure and forward to the Hon. the Judges of the

Supreme Court of this Territory such testimony as ma
your possession or power to establish the charge of t
or any other crime or misdemeanor done or committed
by Col. Burr against the U. States, and thereby promote a
restoration of domestic tranquility in the Country to which
we mutually owe allegiance.

I have the Honor to be
Yrs Obdt Servt
Cowles Mead

P.S. It is expected that an indictment will be preferred in the above mentioned case on the first monday in the next month.

C. Mead.

Genl. James Wilkinson
Commandg the Army of the U.S.
at New Orleans

Sir. 44 Washington Jany 26th 1807.

My last communication of the 19th inst. informed you that Col. Burr was in the custody of the law & he has given bail before Judge Rodney in the sum of 10,000 dollars for his appearance at a Court to be held on the first Monday in February — his boats have been searched by four Gentlemen of undoubted patriotism, who report a large supply of flour, pork whiskey and corn meal — of the ten boats of different kinds the report states them to be badly loaded — Their military stores consist of three muskets, six fusees, eleven rifles — two blunderbusses, thirteen brace of pistols, five swords and three or four pounds of powder — We think that this report is inaccurate as the arms brought down and are of the opinion that they must have concealed them on the shore — I have ordered an enterprizing officer, Capt. Davidson, with a secret party to search the shor Bayou in which the Col. first anchored — we expect to

Capt. Davidson to day by Col. Fitzpatrick, who has been order to superintend the guards stationed on the river between and Bayou Pierre.

In committing Col. Burr to the civil authority, I have obeyed the sacred respect which I feel towards the laws an constitution of my Country — to have held him in durefs by Executive or military power would have been prostrating a princip in our Government which I deemed more important than th punishment of a great offender — I was taught early to believe that the project had compleatly failed, and that many good men had been deluded by false afsurances to join in the enterprize — under these impressions I have adopted such a mode of conduct as promised to bring back the deluded to their friends and their Country & at the same time have kept up (a vigilant enquiry into every subject which promised a developement of the plot, so as to authorise the punishment of the criminal.

On the 24th inst. I drew on you for three thousand nine hundred and seventeen dollars and forty cents of or about the same date I drew in favor of John Henderson Esqr. for sixteen hundred and eighty-four dollars — The greater part of these drafts are for Arms, ammunition &c &c. which I found absolutely necessary for the equipment of the militia, which I thought the occasion required — some accounts are still unliquidated — The Quarter master is now busily employed in collecting them, and they will be transmitted by the first safe private opportunity.

It will add much to my gratification to have managed this unpleasant affair in a way satisfactory to the Genl. Govmt. — if otherwise I must console myself with the intentions by which I was governed — However on that subject I can suffer no fears.

I have pleasure to announce the arrival of Govr. Williams in good health.

With high consideration I am
yr. very Hble servt.

(Signed)

Cowles Meade.

Hon. H. Dearborn
Secy of War